

S-E-C-R-E-T

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**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**  
 7. Participating in these maneuvers were units of the 3 Army and air formations as well as naval units. The civil defense organization organized by the special division) and GVO (ready for work and military organization) and by the administrations locally, also

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|                |                                      |                                 |                  |      |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|------|
| COUNTRY        | Bulgaria                             | REPORT                          |                  | 25X1 |
| SUBJECT        | Summer Maneuvers in the Rhodope Area | DATE DISTR.                     | 17 November 1955 |      |
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| PLACE ACQUIRED |                                      | REFERENCES                      |                  | 25X1 |
| DATE ACQUIRED  |                                      | This is UNEVALUATED Information |                  |      |

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

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1. It appears that the level of training arrived at by the Bulgarian Army during 1954 (which apparently did not go above that of the division) was certainly not higher during 1955, especially during the summer.
2. As for the exercises and maneuvers which took place during the year, the following information has been received: army and air force units had exercises during mid-March in Southern Bulgaria. These exercises seemed to be aimed at studying the conduct and use of large units under atomic attack. The theme of the exercises was apparently as follows: Enemy troops, having destroyed the portion of the Bulgarian defense line "Dimitrov" with atomic weapons in the sector between Elena (N 41-50, E 25-48) and Dositeevo (N 41-55, E 26-01), have arrived as far as Zlati Del (N 42-01, E 25-51) where they are stopped.
3. The defending troops, reclaiming the terrain and traces of the paths of the break-through under the protection of artillery and preceded by aerial bombardment, pass into a counter-attack towards the East by means of a tank action, units of which were deployed previously between Kurdshali and Khaskovo.
4. Participating were two rifle brigades and a tank division. The infantry consisted of units which were members of the same division, thus giving practical application to what appears to be the Soviet plan of disbursement of the large units in case of atomic attack.
5. During the first half of May, maneuvers were carried out to the northwest of Burgas which would appear to complete the cycle of training which had begun the previous autumn.
6. The scope of these exercises was the study of the means and necessary time to enter into action with protective measures against an atomic attack. The attack was considered to have taken place in the area of the Zimnitsa railroad station (N 42-35, E 26-36).

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|-------------------------------------------------------------|---|------|---|------|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|--|--|--|--|
| STATE                                                       | X | ARMY | X | NAVY | X | X | X | X | X | X | ABC |  |  |  |  |
| Distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "ABC". |   |      |   |      |   |   |   |   |   |   |     |  |  |  |  |

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7. Participating in these maneuvers were units of the 3 Army and air formations as well as naval units. The civil defense organization organized by the specific associations such as DOSO (Voluntary Organization for Defense Cooperation) and GTO (Ready for Work and Defense Organization) and by the administrations locally, also went into action.

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